

Serial No.: 09/900,267

Attorney Docket No.: 01P12193US

REMARKS

Upon entry of the instant Amendment, Claims 1-16 are pending. Claim 1 has been amended to more particularly point out Applicants' invention.

Claims 1-16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Thomas, U.S. Patent No. 6,421,339 ("Thomas"). In order for there to be anticipation, each and every element of the claimed invention must be present in a single prior reference. Applicant respectfully submits that the claimed invention is not taught, suggested, or implied by Thomas.

As discussed in the Specification, one aspect of the present invention relates to a gatekeeper including a compare unit and a record unit. The compare unit receives call requests and accesses a database which is a record of where a called party picked up the call, e.g., at home, at the office, via a mobile phone, or via an emergency number. If such functionality is activated by the user, the compare unit performs an analysis such as a "closest neighbor" analysis or other pattern matching to determine the location of the user at the time of day closest to that of the present call. The call is then routed to the user at that location. The record unit then makes the appropriate notation in the database for the latest call.

Thus, claim 1, as amended, recites "a switching unit coupled to said local area network, said switching unit adapted to associate a plurality of numbers with a user, record a time and associated number at which said user has been reached, and perform a closest neighbor comparison of records of previous calls to determine where to connect a current call;"

Claim 4 recites "a record unit adapted to store in a memory a call history associated with particular users; and a compare unit adapted to perform a closest neighbor comparison of said call history to determine at which of said one or more numbers to connect the call;"

Claim 9 recites "maintaining a call history of calls to one or more numbers of a

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particular user; receiving a new call; performing a closest neighbor comparison on said call history to determine at which of said numbers to switch said new call;"

and claim 12 recites "providing a record unit adapted to store in a memory a call history associated with particular users; and providing a compare unit adapted to perform a closest neighbor comparison of said call history to determine at which of said one or more numbers to connect the call."

In contrast, Thomas provides home and visited gatekeepers with visiting location registers (VLR) and home location registers (HLR). When an endpoint roams, he registers to the visited gatekeeper and is assigned a transient identity; this transient identity is communicated to the home gatekeeper. The roaming endpoint can then send and receive calls. Thus, Thomas relates to registering with home and remote gatekeepers. At no point, however, does Thomas remotely relate to recording times and numbers (or call history) of where the user has been reached and then performing a comparison such as a closest neighbor comparison on the call history to determine where to connect the call. As such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of the claims.

For all of the above reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance, which allowance is earnestly solicited.

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